

SP - C1 Cultural Resources Inventory*October 25, 2002***1.0 Introduction/Background**

Previous archaeological inventories have been conducted within the Study Area, and researchers have also collected baseline ethnographic information. These data will be carefully reviewed as an initial step during this study. However, the existing information is known to be incomplete, and must be updated under current laws, standards, and guidelines to fully understand the nature and distribution of cultural resources within the Study Area.

2.0 Study Objective

The objective of this study is to determine the nature and distribution of cultural resources (including archaeological sites, historic resources, and traditional use areas) that could be directly or indirectly affected by project activities.

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study

The Federal Power Act of 1920 requires that the Federal Energy Commission (FERC) consider the effects of their actions on historic-era and archaeological resources. In addition, FERC must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other federal laws prior to issuing a new hydroelectric license for the Study Area. When making certain discretionary decisions, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other applicable state laws. These laws and associated regulations require the consideration of potential effects on and impacts to cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) or the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). An inventory of these potentially significant resources is needed before these considerations can be properly made.

Data will be used to evaluate known cultural resources against the eligibility criteria of the National and California Registers (see Study #2—Cultural Resources Evaluation). This step will allow for an assessment of project-related effects on significant cultural resources, and development of a management plan to protect and preserve these resources during the term of the new hydroelectric license (see Study #3—Cultural Resources Management).

This study plan was developed to address Issue Statement CR1—determine the nature and distribution of cultural resources within the Study Area. Specific Issues under CR1 that will be addressed include: CRE 2, 3, 8, 10, 11-13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31-35, 37, 39, 40-42, 45, 51, 53, 55, and 57-59.

This study is intended to provide baseline information needed to address these issues, as well as to provide critical input to Issue Statements CR2—evaluate the needs and methods to provide protection of cultural resources within the Study Area; CR3—determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations, and maintenance on significant cultural resources; and CR4—provide for the interpretation of cultural resources and make available cultural resources data relative to the project area.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus. Inventory areas may be further expanded if data indicate that potentially significant cultural resources are, or are likely to be, affected by project operations. DWR and FERC will, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Native American Tribes and other interested and knowledgeable members of the public, establish the Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined in the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA.

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

This study will include background research, oral interviews, tribal and agency consultation/coordination, field surveys, data analysis and reporting. The National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the California Office of Historic Preservation have issued standards and guidelines for conducting cultural resource inventories. These standards and guidelines will be used to help refine the procedures to be implemented during this study.

Task 1—Background Research

Background research is mandated by 36 CFR 800.4(a)(2-4), the regulations issued by the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) that implement Section 106 of NHPA. The purpose of this background research is to gather information to help identify potentially important cultural resources within the Study Area before fieldwork is begun. According to ACHP's regulations, research must be adequate for its purpose, but does not have to be exhaustive. DWR and FERC must, however, make a "reasonable and good faith effort" to collect information at a level of effort appropriate to the scale and impact of the undertaking (36 CFR 800(b)(1)).

The purpose of the background research is to aid in the identification of all cultural resources that may be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register. This includes prehistoric archaeological sites, historic-era archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures and objects, and traditional cultural properties (TCPs). Each of these property types requires research in different sources.

Archaeological Resources. Existing information regarding archaeological sites of all periods (historic and prehistoric) which has been previously recorded within the Study Area, and reports on previously conducted archaeological work will be assembled as an initial task.

Most of this information is housed at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC), located at California State University (CSU) Chico, which serves as one of 12 statewide repositories for archaeological site location and other information. This includes cultural properties listed on the National and California Registers, archaeological site record forms and base maps, and copies of regional archaeological survey and excavation reports. Where appropriate, DWR will also contact government agency (BLM, USFS, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)) officials and other archaeologists who have additional information, particularly in relation to archaeological investigations performed during construction of the Study Area facilities. Other information that is typically collected in conjunction with the archaeological record search relates to the general prehistory and history of the region that will contribute to the development of local and regional overviews of the Study Area.

Historic-Era Resources. The primary goal of the background research for historic-era resources is to collect information that will assist archaeologists in identifying potentially important historic-era cultural resources while in the field. Knowing where to look helps to focus fieldwork; while knowledge of the types of resources that may be encountered brings a broader cultural context that contributes to the recording and evaluation of these resources. A wide variety of repositories will be visited and numerous sources will be consulted. Among these are the County Recorder's Office, Butte County Historical Society, USFS offices, BLM offices, DPR offices, the CSU Chico library, the University of California (UC) Berkeley Bancroft Library, and the California State Library (California Section). Other sources that will be examined include the US General Land Office plat maps and survey notes; homestead entries and mining claims; outdated US Geological Survey (USGS) and US Army tactical maps; official county maps; published histories; and academic theses. In addition, individuals and representatives of organizations such as the Butte County Historical Society will be interviewed about the locations, conditions, and importance of cultural resources within the Study Area.

Ethnographic and Ethnohistoric Resources. Published and unpublished documents pertaining to the Maidu Peoples who resided in the Study Area in pre-contact times, and who have continued to reside in traditional territory, will be reviewed. These research materials are available in repositories and archives such as Butte County public libraries; university libraries and special collections in Chico, Sacramento, and Davis; the State Library in Sacramento; the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley; and the national archives in San Bruno. These materials will be carefully reviewed and pertinent information will be recorded. This documentary investigation will provide background information for the TCPs Inventory, which will be based on oral interviews with local knowledgeable Native Americans (see Task 3).

Geomorphological and Biotic Issues. Inasmuch as most human activity is linked in some fashion to the availability of food, water, and various raw materials (Harris 1968; Smith 1983; Steward 1955; White 1959), knowledge about the distribution of different natural resources provides important clues regarding the potential location and understanding of archaeological and other cultural properties. By the same token, geologic and other natural and cultural processes (e.g., erosion, soil formation, and mining) can, at times, conceal or destroy archaeological and other resource types (Brown 1997; Butzer 1982), making an understanding of these events a critical component to the interpretation of resource inventory results. With this in mind, biotic, geologic/edaphic, hydrologic, and geomorphologic data from published and newly acquired sources will be assembled and converted to GIS format to provide information about likely locations of specific types of cultural resources that may be identified or could have existed in the past.

Task 2—Tribal and Agency Consultation/Coordination

Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources. It is the goal of DWR to work with Native American groups to establish protocols for continued interaction on the concerns and interests of the local community as they relate to this study. Relevant knowledge held by local historians and others (including former researchers familiar with the Oroville area) will also be sought during the study to provide for a more complete understanding of the cultural resources within the Study Area. As noted above, DWR will also be consulting with relevant federal and state agencies such as the USFS, BLM, DPR, FERC, and SHPO. The agency consultation will include both baseline cultural resources information gathering, as well as discussions on regulatory and permitting requirements relevant to this study.

Ethnographic and Ethnohistoric Resources. In accordance with the interests of the Cultural Resources Work Group, NHPA Section 106, its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and FERC relicensing requirements, DWR will consult closely with tribes to develop research plans for conducting background research. Importantly, the team will also consult closely with tribes to develop protocol for oral interviews; the nature of the interviews and the TCP study requires a joint effort between the tribes and DWR's ethnographic team.

Task 3—Field Surveys and Oral Interviews

Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources. Given the known diversity and location of archaeological and historical resources within the Study Area and the magnitude of known and/or foreseeable impacts related to project operations, a variable and staged approach to the on-the-ground inventory is most appropriate. Thus, areas in the reservoir fluctuation zone, near developed recreational facilities, and perhaps elsewhere, where known or suspected impacts are occurring, will be completely examined (Delacorte et al. 2001). More peripheral localities, where few impacts are anticipated, will be sampled, in terms of probability, to determine the nature of the resources and potential need for additional work.

Once in the field, crews will locate their starting and subsequent positions and site locations using hand-held global positioning system (GPS) units calibrated to Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates which are easily downloadable into the GIS project database. Crewmembers will then be spaced at appropriate intervals to accommodate local topographic, floristic, and other conditions and the pedestrian survey will be conducted in a manner conducive to safely and efficiently examining the ground surface for cultural resources.

When resources are encountered, they will be documented in accordance with current federal, state, and professional standards as sites, structures, objects, isolated finds, etc., taking into account the nature and age of the resource (California Office of Historic Preservation 1995; National Park Service 1983). Appropriate forms will be completed, photographs will be taken, and notes will be used to document artifacts and features that may be present. Crews will prepare a map showing the site boundaries and relevant topographic and natural features, along with the types and distributions of significant cultural remains (e.g., artifact concentrations, features, or areas of discolored soil). Depending on the size and complexity of sites, maps will be drafted using either a compass and tape, or a hand-held GPS unit tied into a site datum. To facilitate later management decisions, information concerning previous or ongoing impacts to archaeological and historic-era sites will be noted in the field.

Ethnographic and Ethnohistoric Resources. Oral interviews will be held with elders and other knowledgeable members of the Native American community in order to identify locations of concern to them.

These interviews will be conducted at times and in places that are convenient for the interviewees, although it will be a goal to conduct some interviews in the field at the locations of concern. This information will be maintained at the level of confidentiality requested by the tribes.

Task 4—Data Analysis and Reporting

Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources. Apart from the numerous site records and site record updates produced as a result of the survey, a Final Report that meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for the identification and reporting of archaeological sites will be prepared.

While confidential location information will not be presented in reports intended for public distribution, summary data on the total numbers of and conditions of historic and prehistoric sites can be assessed and presented to a wider audience.

Certain preliminary analyses and interpretations of inventory results as they relate to future studies and management concerns will be presented in Inventory Reports. This will include conversion of background research and survey data into electronic and GIS formats which can be used by agency, tribal, and archaeological personnel to readily analyze and model the density and distribution of cultural properties within the APE. Other issues that might profitably be addressed with survey data relate to existing and future impacts to cultural properties resulting from project operations. For example, have previously recorded sites been covered by sediment, extensively eroded, and/or vandalized, and how pervasive is the problem? Information and questions raised by the survey will provide valuable insights and concrete data for additional study plans which address specific resource concerns and which will allow DWR and FERC to fully comply with NHPA Section 106.

Ethnography and Ethnohistory. Data will be reviewed and salient information will be presented in at least three related reports: Ethnographic Context; Ethnohistoric Background; and the TCP Inventory. The data analysis and reporting will be conducted according to state and federal standards and guidelines. National Park Service’s Bulletin 38 provides specific guidance for the TCP Inventory (National Park Service 1990).

6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

Results

This section to be developed.

Products/Deliverables

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Archaeological Resources Inventory
- Historic-Era Resources Inventory
- Ethnographic Context, Ethnohistoric Background, and Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory

- Final Report

The format and content of these documents, including maps, forms, and technical appendices, if appropriate, will conform with current regulatory and professional standards (California Office of Historic Preservation 1995 and National Park Service 1983). The preparation and distribution of these documents will be handled in full recognition of the confidential nature of certain sensitive cultural resources data.

Confidential archaeological and historic-era resource information will be made available only to managing and responsible parties (DWR, FERC, SHPO, USFS, BLM, DPR, and Native American Tribes), and will not be distributed to the public. Protocols relative to the treatment of sensitive ethnographic and ethnohistoric information will be established by DWR and the Native American Peoples and will be adhered to during report preparation and distribution. Summary or non-confidential reports that do not include sensitive cultural resources information will be prepared for broader distribution.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

It is anticipated that information gathered by the Environmental Work Group (wildlife and botanical resource inventories) will be helpful to this study and future cultural resource studies (for example, what native plants may be suitable for future archaeological site stabilization efforts?). Studies of geomorphology and hydrology may help provide baseline paleo-environmental information.

The results of this study will provide direct input to Study #2—Cultural Resources Evaluation Study and Study #3—Cultural Resources Management Study, and will be used to address project-related effects and define appropriate long-term management of cultural resources in accordance with federal guidelines (National Park Service 1985).

The presence of significant cultural resources may affect proposed development plans being considered by DWR or other work groups. For example, considerations by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group to develop new facilities (recreational trails, boat ramps, etc.) will need to be considered in light of the cultural resources studies being conducted by DWR.

In addition, close coordination with other resource groups is needed to be aware of potential studies that may influence the cultural resource-related APE (e.g., potential desire for a new recreational facility outside the FERC boundary).

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Compliance Requirements

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8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: March through November 2002.

Data analysis and report writing: September 2002 through March 2003.

Draft Cultural Resource Inventories due: March 2003.

Final Report due: May 2003.

9.0 References

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